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Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049473

EXDIS - HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, NATO

SUBJECT: BRIEFING LUNS ON CLIFFORD MISSION

REF: STATE 44684

1. AMBASSADOR SHOULD BRIEF LUNS ON CLIFFORD MISSION ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A) SECRETARY CLIFFORD HAS ASKED ME TO SHARE WITH YOU HIS
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INITIAL IMPRESSIONS AND JUDGMENTS OF THE TWO-WEEK VISIT HE AND HIS MISSION HAD IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

B) WE CONSIDER THE MISSION TO HAVE BEEN QUITE SUCCESSFUL. SECRETARY CLIFFORD WAS WELL RECEIVED, HAD A DETAILED AND COMPREHENSIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IN ALL CAPITALS HE VISITED, AND ESTABLISHED GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS. IT WAS CLEAR

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THAT THE INTEREST OF PRESIDENT CARTER IN THE AREA AND HIS MANIFESTATION OF THIS BY SENDING A HIGH LEVEL EMISSARY WAS APPRECIATED. THIS WAS TRUE IN ANKARA AS WELL AS IN THE OTHER CAPITALS.

C) WE BELIEVE A BEGINNING HAS BEEN MADE IN CREATING A NEW CLIMATE BETWEEN THE US AND GREECE AND THE US AND TURKEY. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT OUR KEY BILATERAL INTERESTS CAN NOW BE MORE SUCCESSFULLY AND CONSTRUCTIVELY PURSUED. BOTH

COUNTRIES WANT STRENGTHENED RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, SEE THEIR FUTURE AS LYING WITH THE WEST AND NATO AND EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO WORK WITH US TO OVERCOME MUTUAL PROBLEMS.D)WITH RESPECT TO CYPRUS, MR. CLIFFORD DETECTED THAT SOME IMPORTANT FIRST STEPS TOWARD REAL PROGRESS MIGHT BE MADE SOON. THE CLIFFORD MISSION HAD EXTENSIVE DIS-CUSSIONS WITH THE LEADERS OF THE TWO CYPRIOT COMMUNITIES, WHO ASSURED US THAT THEY INTENDED TO NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH, AND ON A SUSTAINED BASIS, BEGINNING ON MARCH 31, IN THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS IN VIENNA. WE BELIEVE THE TWO SIDES WILL ADDRESS THE KEY OUTSTANDING ISSUES AND WILL BE READY TO PRESENT CONCRETE PROPOSALS.

E) CLIFFORD MET WITH UNSYG WALDHEIM IN VIENNA AND ASSURED HIM THAT THE US STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS UNDER UN LEADERSHIP. OUR INTEREST IS TO ASSIST, NOT SUBSTITUTE OR SUPPLANT THE UN. THE PARTIES AND THE UN HAVE WELCOMED US INTEREST, AS HAVE THE GOVERNMENTS OF GREECE AND TURKEY WHO HAVE THEMSELVES INDICATED THEIR CONFIDENTIAL

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STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE UPCOMING VIENNA INTERCOMMUNAL NEGO-TIATIONS.

F) THE DISPUTE IN THE AEGEAN WAS DISCUSSED AT CONSIDERABLE LENGTH IN BOTH ATHENS AND ANKARA. IN ATHENS, THE GREEKS EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN ABOUT TURKISH INTENTIONS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF ACTIONS THEY COULD ONLY REGARD AS PROVO-CATIVE. IN ANKARA, THE TURKS DENIED ANY EXPANSIONIST IN-TENTIONS AND DESCRIBED THEIR POSITION IN GREAT DETAIL. CLIFFORD TOLD BOTH SIDES THAT THE SPECIFIC ISSUES IN THE AEGEAN ARE EXTREMELY COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT AND THAT THE US COULD NOT SUPPORT ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER. WE DID, HOWEVER, URGE BOTH TO ENGAGE IN SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS OR SEEK THE HELP OF THIRD PARTIES.

G) IN BOTH ATHENS AND ANKARA, WE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACHED TO A COMMON DEFENSE EFFORT WITHIN THE NATO ALLIANCE BY GREECE AND TURKEY. CLIFFORD STRESSED THE SEVERELY ADVERSE EFFECT TENSIONS IN THE AREA HAVE CREATED

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FOR THE ALLIANCE ON ITS SOUTHERN FLANK. WE EMPHASIZED OUR HOPE AND BELIEF THAT OVER TIME GREECE CAN RETURN TO FULL, UNQUALIFIED PARTICIPATION IN THE ALLIANCE. THE GREEK GOVERNMENT ASSURED CLIFFORD THIS WAS ALSO THEIR INTENTION AND THAT THEIR RECENT COMMUNICATION TO NATO REPRESENTED A STEP IN THIS DIRECTION. THE GREEKS ASKED FOR US SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR PRESENT POSITION AND SAID THAT THE FUTURE RELATIONSHIP OF GREECE TO NATO MIGHT BEST BE DISCUSSED AT TECHNICAL, RATHER THAN POLITICAL,LEVEL IN BRUSSELS. THE TURKS, ON THE OTHER HAND, SAID THEY STRONGLY RESENTED THE RECENT GREEK LETTER TO NATO WHICH REFLECTED GREECE'S DESIRE TO RETAIN ALL THE BENEFITS OF NATO MEMBERSHIP WITHOUT PAYING ANY OF THE PRICE. SPECIFICALLY, THE TURKS SAID THEY OBJECTED TO THE GREEK PRESENTATION WHICH SINGLED OUT TURKEY AS A COUNTRY WITH OFFENSIVE AIMS. NOR COULD TURKEY ACCEPT THE FACT THAT GREECE INTENDED TO

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DEPLOY ITS FORCES DURING PEACETIME AGAINST A FELLOW NATO ALLY. THE TURKS INSISTED THAT THE RECENT GREEK RESPONSE TO NATO THEREFORE BE DISCUSSED AT A POLITICAL RATHER THAN TECHNICAL LEVEL IN NATO.

2. YOU SHOULD TELL LUNS THAT WE GREATLY APPRECIATE HIS INTEREST AND WILL KEEP HIM INFORMED AS DEVELOPMENTS WARRANT.YOU SHOULD ADD THAT THE FOREGOING BRIEFING IS FOR HIS PRIVATE INFORMATION.

3. YOU SHOULD EXTEND ON SECRETARY CLIFFORD'S BEHALF HIS BEST WISHES AND PERSONAL REGARDS TO LUNS.
CHRISTOPHER

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